

FOR INFORMATION  
DA-2002-17

September 5, 2002

SUBJECT: *Phytophthora ramorum* (PR), Sudden Oak Death Expansion of Listed Hosts--  
California and Oregon

TO: STATE AND TERRITORY AGRICULTURAL REGULATORY OFFICIALS

On February 14, 2002, APHIS published an interim rule (7 CFR 301.92) in the Federal Register for sudden oak death (PR). This rule regulates the artificial spread of this disease-causing organism from moving out of the counties where the disease is established. We now have learned that certain plant parts of additional hosts require regulating in order to prevent artificial spread of the disease.

University researchers regularly analyze suspect new hosts. On September 4, researchers announced that the disease has been found associated with parts of two important tree species growing in the currently regulated areas. These new hosts are coast redwood (*Sequoia sempervirens*) and Douglas-fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii* var. *menziesii*). They reported finding the disease limited to basal trunk/burl sprouts, small branches, and leaves (needles).

Therefore, effective immediately, the following are restricted articles: basal trunk/burl sprouts, small branches (less than one inch in diameter), and leaves (needles) of coast redwood (*Sequoia sempervirens*) and Douglas-fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii* var. *menziesii*). This action is authorized by the Plant Protection Act of June 20, 2002, Section 412(a) which authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to prohibit or restrict the movement in interstate commerce of any plant, plant part, or article if the Secretary determines the prohibition or restriction is necessary to prevent the dissemination of a plant pest within the United States. This action is also authorized by 7 CFR 301.92-2(b)(2) which designates as restricted articles any other product or article that an inspector determines to present a risk of spreading PR if an inspector notifies the person in possession of the product or article that it is a restricted article.

This action will be reflected by regulatory changes that will be published in the Federal Register for public comment in accordance with the provisions of the Administrative Procedures Act.

Signed Paul Eggert for

Richard L. Dunkle  
Deputy Administrator  
Plant Protection and Quarantine